

Document 440 of 576**ENVELOPE**

CDSN = LGX501 MCN = 93314/37041 TOR = 933142120
RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS7914 3142120-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 102120Z NOV 93
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RHHJMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUCIAEA/FASTC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SCIR//
RUCMACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RULKQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RUEABOA/HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUEALGX/SAFE

R 101748Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/[REDACTED]
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV 1743
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1764
RUEAHOF/CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PEZ/DAPE-ZB-TFR-H//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:RSA/POW-MIA//
INFO RUAGOTC/CINCUNC SEOUL
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
BT

(b) (3)

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 035462

DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA AND EAP

E.O. 12356: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL, PHUM, RS
SUBJECT: POW/MIA: INTERVIEW OF COL(RET) ASKOLD.

REF MOSCOW 30801

1. SUMMARY. TASK FORCE RUSSIA TEAM MEMBERS INTERVIEWED COL(RET) GERMOND ASKOLD IN KIEV, UKRAINE ON OCTOBER 21, 1993. COL ASKOLD WAS A JET-FIGHTER PILOT WHO SERVED IN KOREA. ASKOLD PROVIDED TFR WITH A PILOT'S INSIGHT INTO THE POW SITUATION IN NORTH KOREA, BUT PERSONALLY SAW NO AMERICAN POWS DURING HIS SERVICE THERE. A VIDEOTAPE OF THE FULL INTERVIEW WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE JC8B. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

2. TFR MEMBERS TABACH AND GROH TRAVELED TO KIEV, UKRAINE, OCTOBER 20-27, 1993. ASKOLD'S NAME AND DETAILS OF HIS SERVICE DURING THE KOREAN WAR WERE FOUND IN THE KIEV WAR MUSEUM DURING AN EARLIER TRIP TO THE UKRAINE BY TFR (REFTEL).

3. COL ASKOLD SERVED IN KOREA FROM MID 1952 UNTIL AUGUST 4, 1953 AS A JET-FIGHTER PILOT, FLIGHT COMMANDER IN THE 224TH REGIMENT OF THE 32ND AIR DIVISION IN THE RANK OF SENIOR LIEUTENANT. HIS CAREER SPANNED THIRTY YEARS AND HE RETIRED A COLONEL. IN KOREA, HIS COMMANDER WAS YARMAKOV (ASKOLD SAID HE LIVES NEAR "LENINGRAD," NFI). THE UNIT POLITICAL OFFICER WAS ABABZYN. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE UKRAINIAN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON RELATIONS WITH WAR VETERANS. ASKOLD ESTIMATED THAT DURING HIS TIME IN KOREA HIS REGIMENT SHOT DOWN BETWEEN 27 AND 30 AMERICAN AIRCRAFT.

4. ASKOLD SAID THAT HE AND HIS WINGMAN SHOT DOWN CPT HAROLD FISHER ON APRIL 7, 1953. ASKOLD SAID THAT FISHER WAS A FLIGHT COMMANDER, WHO FLEW AN F-86 WHICH HAD A CHECKERBOARD PATTERN ON THE STABILIZER. ASKOLD SAID THAT FISHER IS NOW A RETIRED COLONEL LIVING IN NEVADA. ASKOLD PRODUCED A XEROX COPY OF A PHOTO OF FISHER AND HIS AIRCRAFT MECHANIC. ASKOLD SAID THAT HIS XEROX WAS MADE FROM A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH THAT FISHER HAD WITH HIM WHEN CAPTURED. ASKOLD SAID THAT AS FISHER'S AIRCRAFT CRASHED NOT FAR FROM HIS BASE, SOME OF ITS REMNANTS WERE BROUGHT TO THE BASE. ASKOLD SAID THAT WHEN FISHER WAS CAPTURED, DOCUMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM HIM APPARENTLY BY RUSSIANS. THE RUSSIANS WERE LATER REPRIMANDED FOR THIS BECAUSE FISHER REPORTED THAT HE WAS NOT CAPTURED BY ASIANS, BUT BY EUROPEANS. AFTER HE DEPARTED KOREA, ASKOLD SAID THAT HE HEARD ON THE RADIO THAT FISHER HAD BEEN REPATRIATED TO THE US IN 1954. ASKOLD SAID THAT THE RADIO BROADCAST

ALSO INDICATED THAT FISHER WAS AN ACE. ASKOLD REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING FISHER.

5. AS FAR AS THE PROCESSING OF POWS IS CONCERNED, ASKOLD SAID THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO PILOTS AFTER THEIR CAPTURE. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE HEARD THAT THERE WAS A COMFORTABLE CAMP FOR AMERICAN PILOTS NEAR THE CHINESE-KOREAN BORDER, BUT HE NEITHER KNOWS IN WHICH COUNTRY THE ALLEGED CAMP WAS LOCATED, NOR DID HE EVER PERSONALLY SEE THE CAMP.

6. ASKOLD SAID THAT PERIODICALLY THE PILOTS IN HIS UNIT WOULD BE BRIEFED BY THE TRAINING SECTION ON INFORMATION GATHERED FROM AMERICAN PILOTS. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE THE INFO CAME FROM OR WHO PROVIDED THE INFORMATION. THE INSTRUCTOR FOR THESE BRIEFINGS WAS A NOVOSELOV (DECEASED (NFI)). ASKOLD SAID THAT ON ONE OCCASION THERE WAS A REPORT OF AN AMERICAN PILOT POW EXPLAINING HOW POWERFUL THE SOVIET MIG CANNON WAS. THE AMERICAN PILOT ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT ON A PREVIOUS SORTIE, A SOVIET ROUND PASSED THROUGH THE FUSELAGE, THE ENGINE, AND HALFWAY THROUGH THE COCKPIT ARMOR OF HIS AIRCRAFT, BUT THAT HE MANAGED TO RETURN TO HIS BASE. ASKOLD SAID THE PILOTS WOULD VIEW GUN-CAMERA FOOTAGE FROM SHOOT DOWNS AS A TRAINING AID. THE FILM WOULD THEN BE DESTROYED. FROM THESE TRAINING BRIEFINGS ASKOLD SAID THAT HE LEARNED OF AN AMERICAN POW OF RUSSIAN ANCESTRY CALLED COL MAKHORIN. ASKOLD REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION ON THE

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
FATE OF THIS PILOT. (TFR COMMENT: PROBABLY "MAHURIN". END COMMENT.)

7. WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS A SPECIAL ORDER REGARDING F-86 PILOTS OR AIRCRAFT, ASKOLD REPLIED, "ALMOST ALL AIRCRAFT FLYING WERE F86F'8." ASKOLD SAID THAT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT F-86 PILOTS WERE SENT TO THE USSR. HE THINKS THAT ONLY THE CHINESE DEALT WITH THE TRANSFER OF POWS, NOT THE RUSSIANS OR KOREANS. WHEN TOLD THAT TFR HAS INFORMATION REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF AN F-86 AIRCRAFT TO RUSSIA, ASKOLD AGREED THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE, SAYING THAT HE HAD HEARD STORIES OF AIRCRAFT LANDING INTACT AFTER THE PILOT HAD EJECTED.

8. TASK FORCE RUSSIA SENDS. PICKERING

ADMIN

BT

#7915

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